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ABSTRACT

A primary goal of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is to identify and promote programs that enhance the field of juvenile justice. Since 1992, the Gould-Wysinger Awards, commemorating two OJJDP professionals, have recognized programs that advance the objectives of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and promote a standard of excellence for program development and implementation. Programs may be nominated in the categories of delinquency prevention, intervention, and system improvement. In 1995, three programs, all in the intervention category, were named Gould-Wysinger winners. All three target urban youth. The Utah Community Service and Restitutions Program, Salt Lake City, shows that juveniles who take responsibility for their actions by paying retribution, performing community service, or both, are less likely to re-offend than are juveniles without sanctions. The Arlington County Juvenile Sex Offender Program, Arlington (Virginia) is a comprehensive treatment approach for the adolescent offender, the offender's family, and significant systems within the community. A recent evaluation of this program, in which trained staff work closely to prevent the escalation of offender behavior, indicates that 91% of juveniles who attend do not reoffend. The BRIDGE (Atlanta, Georgia) is an intermediate-level residential psychiatric treatment program for youth with a history of physical and sexual abuse in a depressed Atlanta neighborhood. Youth are placed in the BRIDGE, which provides comprehensive treatments for youth involved with or at risk of substance abuse, gangs, physical and sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection, as an alternative to incarceration. The BRIDGE also offers a comprehensive alternative school and an extensive aftercare program. (SLD)

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Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Shay Bilchik, Administrator

Fact Sheet #44 August 1996

The Gould-Wysinger Awards: A Tradition of Excellence

by Michael Goodnow

A primary goal of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is to identify and promote programs that enhance the field of juvenile justice. Sound programs are essential to developing effective strategies that address the needs of at-risk and delinquent youth. Since 1992, the Gould-Wysinger Awards have commended exceptional State and local achievement in advancing juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Created by OJJDP to pay tribute to James Gould and Deborah Wysinger, who contributed significantly to the welfare of the Nation's youth during their careers as OJJDP juvenile justice professionals, the awards recognize federally funded youth service programs and projects that advance the objectives of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, as amended, and promote a standard of excellence for program development and implementation in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

For 1995, OJJDP implemented a new procedure that allowed States to nominate programs for the following categories:

- **Delinquency Prevention**, including programs, research, or other initiatives designed to reduce the incidence of delinquent acts and directed to the general population of juveniles who are at risk of becoming delinquent.
- **Intervention**, including programs providing educational, social, psychological, vocational, and medical services; corrective and preventive guidance and training; and other rehabilitative services designed to support development of children's competencies while protecting the public.
- **System Improvement**, including programs, research, and other initiatives to examine issues and improve policies and procedures in the juvenile justice system.

The following programs, all in the intervention category, were designated 1995 Gould-Wysinger Award winners.

Utah Community Service and Restitution Program (Salt Lake City, Utah)

The Utah Community Service and Restitution Program began in May 1986 and has shown growth both in the percentage of restitution collected for victims of juvenile crime and in the number of community service hours completed. In 1995 the program collected $1,108,103 in restitution and logged 502,400 hours of community service. As a pilot site for an OJJDP research study in 1992, the program demonstrated that juveniles who take responsibility for their actions by paying restitution, performing community service hours, or doing both are less likely to reoffend than are juveniles without sanctions.

Program contact: Michael Phillips, Deputy Court Administrator, Utah Juvenile Court, 230 South 500 East–Suite 300, Salt Lake City, UT 84102; 801–578–3800.

Arlington County Juvenile Sex Offender Program (Arlington, Virginia)

The Arlington County Juvenile Sex Offender Program is a comprehensive treatment approach involving the adolescent offender, the offender's family, and significant systems within the community. The program intervenes with young offenders to reduce the likelihood that their behavior will escalate into more serious, violent sexual deviance. Program staff are intensively trained by national experts in sex offender treatment and sex offender case management. A recent evaluation of this program demonstrated that 91 percent of juveniles who participated did not reoffend.

Program contact: Audrey B. Chase, Program Director, Arlington County Juvenile Sex Offender Program, Department of Human Services, MHMRSAS Division, 1725 North George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22205; 703–358–5000.

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The BRIDGE (Atlanta, Georgia)

The BRIDGE is an intermediate-level, residential psychiatric treatment program in a depressed Atlanta neighborhood recently designated a Federal Empowerment Zone. The BRIDGE serves troubled adolescents with a history of physical and sexual abuse. Nearly all BRIDGE youth are involved with the juvenile justice system and are placed in the program as an alternative to incarceration. This coeducational program is one of Georgia's few resources for adolescent female offenders with mental health issues. It provides comprehensive treatment for youth involved with or at risk of substance abuse, gangs, physical and sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection. The BRIDGE also offers a comprehensive alternative school and an extensive aftercare program. OJJDP recently awarded a $100,000 Challenge Grant for its continuation.

Program contact: Ann Starr, Program Director, The BRIDGE, 1559 Johnson Road NW., Atlanta, GA 30318; 404–792–0070.

Numerous programs were nominated for the 1995 Gould-Wysinger Awards by juvenile justice professionals across the country. The selection process was highly competitive. All nominations identified programs that address substantial needs in the community and reflect a strong commitment to working with the Nation's youth.

For Further Information

For further information regarding the Gould-Wysinger Awards and the nomination process, contact Michael Goodnow, Coordinator, Gould-Wysinger Awards, at 202–307–5929.

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